GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:218
ANSWERED ON:18.11.2002
RELEASE OF MERCURY INTO ENVIRONMENT
SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is being exposed to high level of mercury possessing from companies producing caustic soda and chlorine, as reported in the Times of India dated September 3, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the name of company rated as the greenest one as per the report;

(c) Whether an astounding 60-70 tonnes of mercury is released every year into out environment;and

(d) if so, the concrete steps taken in this direction so far ?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU)

(a), (b), (c) and (d): Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), New Delhi has reported that an average 60-70 tonnes of mercury was released into the environment by the Caustic Chlorine sector in India between 1997-98 to 1999-2000. As per the rating given by CSE, Chemfab Alkalis Ltd is the greenest company in the Caustic Chlorine sector. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has notified the standards for mercury based waste water generation (flow) and emission for mercury from hydrogen gas holder under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.